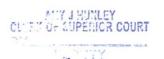


2019 FEB 14 PM 4: 45



THE RUSSELL'S LAW FIRM, PLC 202 E. WILCOX DR. SIERRA VISTA, AZ 85635 Tel: (520)458-7246 Fax: (855)778-5559 By: D. Christopher Russell, Esquire State Bar No. 22674 courtdocs@russellslawfirm.com Attorney for Petitioner

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF COCHISE

DAVID WELCH, individually and on behalf of ALL CITIZENS OF COCHISE COUNTY, PRECINCT FIVE.

Petitioner.

v.

COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, PATRICK G. CALL, ANN ENGLISH, AND PEGGY JUDD,

Respondents.

Case No.: CV201900060

SPECIAL ACTION AND PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS. PETITION FOR INJUNCTIVE AND DECLARATORY RELIEF

Assigned Hon.:

The Petitioner, David Welch, by and through his attorneys undersigned, states that he is a resident within Justice Court Precinct Five, Cochise County, Arizona, and is a named Defendant pending a trial in said court, and has a right to petition for writ of mandamus, petition for injunctive and declaratory relief in this Court, individually and on behalf of all citizens of Cochise County, Justice Court Precinct Five.

The Respondents, Patrick G. Call, Ann English, and Peggy Judd, have been elected to, and now hold office as the Cochise County Board of Supervisors.

It was, and still is, the Respondents' duty to appoint a qualified and competent Justice of the Peace for Precinct Five after following the proper application procedures, and complying with A.R.S. § 38-503 (anti-self-dealing statute) by properly notifying the public of its intention to self-deal and all conflicts of interest associated therewith.

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The Petitioner, pursuant to the Rules of Procedure for Special Action against an officer and public body, states, alleges and complains as follows:

## **PARTIES AND JURISDICTION**

- 1. The Petitioner, David Welch, is a Sierra Vista, Arizona resident living within the Justice Court Five precinct and pending trial in that court. That Petitioner has standing, individually, and on behalf of all Cochise County Justice Court Five residents to bring this action.
- 2. The Respondent, Cochise County Board of Supervisors (hereinafter "BOS"), is a local public body as described pursuant to A.R.S. § 11-202 with its address at 1415 Melody Lane, Suite G, Bisbee, Arizona 85603; the BOS governs Cochise County, Arizona.
- 3. The Respondent, Patrick G. Call, is a resident of Cochise County, Arizona and was elected, commissioned, qualified and acting as a member of the BOS; that said Respondent is subject to the requirements of A.R.S. §§ 38-503, 38-431.01, et seq. That Respondent, Patrick G. Call, purports to be acting as the Justice of the Peace, Precinct Five, Cochise County, Arizona.
- 4. The Respondent, Ann English, is a resident of Cochise County, Arizona and was elected, commissioned, qualified and acting as a member of the BOS; that said Respondent is subject to the requirements of A.R.S. §§ 38-503, 38-431.01, et seq.
- 5. The Respondent, Peggy Judd, is a resident of Cochise County, Arizona and was elected, commissioned, qualified and acting as a member of the BOS; that said Respondent is subject to the requirements of A.R.S. §§ 38-503, 38-431.01, et seq.
- 6. That at all times herein, Respondents were all agents of the BOS acting within the course and scope of their duties as elected public officials of a public body and were required to comply with all statutory duties of the office.
- 7. That the Respondents have caused acts, events, errors, omissions and occurrences of which the Petitioner presently complains in Cochise County, Arizona; that venue is proper in Cochise County Superior Court pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-401.

8. That jurisdiction is vested within the Cochise County Superior Court pursuant to A.R.S. §§§ 12-123, 12-2012, 12-1831 et seq.

### **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 9. On or about February 10, 2019 the BOS had notice that Justice of the Peace Tim Dickerson was resigning from his position as Justice of the Peace for Precinct Five to take another judicial appointment within the county.
- 10. In anticipation of filling the vacancy of Justice of the Peace for Precinct Five, on or about February 10, 2019, the BOS published notice of two (2) separate meetings to be held on February 12, 2019 as follows:
  - a. Special Board Meeting and Possible Executive Session, February 12, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. with 2 issues on the agenda: "1) Discussion regarding the process for filling the vacancy for Justice of the Peace in Justice Precinct 5" and "2) Appoint \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as Justice of the Peace for Justice Precinct 5."
    - i. Respondent, Patrick G. Call, was asked to leave the executive session;
    - ii. Respondent, Patrick G. Call, knew, at that time, he was being appointed as Justice of the Peace.
  - b. Regular Board Meeting at 10:00 a.m. with a specified agenda that did not include any items related to filling the judicial vacancy.
- 11. Neither notice for the meetings to be held on February 12, 2019 contained any notice to the public that the BOS was going to a) propose one of its own members, Patrick G. Call, to fill a vacancy of Justice of the Peace for Precinct Five or b) Mr. Call's interest in the outcome of the decision.
- 12. Neither notice for the meetings to be held on February 12, 2019 contained any notice to the public that the BOS would be making an actual legal, binding appointment of the position of Justice of the Peace, Precinct Five at either the Special or Regular meetings.
- 13. The BOS held an executive session which was closed to the public and apparently voted during this closed meeting to appoint, Patrick G. Call, one of its own members, as the

Justice of the Peace for Precinct Five, in violation of the open meeting statute A.R.S. §§ 38-431.01(A)(1) and (D).

- 14. Voting in executive session is proscribed.
- 15. Holding a vote to appoint Patrick G. Call to provide Judicial services to the County while he was serving as a member of the BOS is a conflict of interest in violation of A.R.S. § 38-503 and was required to be disclosed to the public and opened for public discussion before the BOS conducted a vote.
- 16. Additionally, because of the conflict of interest in self-dealing to a member of the BOS, the Board was required to open up the bidding for the job of Justice of the Peace to other qualified members of the public for competitive bidding on the job and the BOS failed to give any notice to the public whatsoever of the job opening, nor did it consider other job applicants.
- 17. That there are several qualified individuals within the Precinct willing to apply for the Justice of the Peace position until the next election can be held.

# COUNT I (Declaratory Action)

- 18. The Petitioner hereby incorporates in its entirety all foregoing allegations and contents as if the same where fully set forth herein.
- 19. That the Petitioner, and the remainder of the residents within Justice Court Five Precinct, have a legal, protectible right to have their legal actions that come before the Justice of the Peace to be determined by a qualified and properly appointed or elected Justice of the Peace.
- 20. That a controversy exists between the parties, as stated herein, and the Petitioner, and the remainder of residents within Justice Court Five Precinct, have legal rights that have, or will be, affected by the BOS's improper and illegal actions.
- 21. That all meetings by the BOS are required to be public and all legal action taken by the BOS must be voted on in a public meeting. A.R.S. §§ 38-431(3); 38-431.01 et seq.

- 22. That no vote or legal action can be taken during an executive session, which is closed to the public, to bind the public body. A.R.S. § 38-431.01 (A)(1) and (D).
- 23. That all actions taken in violation of the open meeting statutes are null and void. A.R.S. § 38-431.05.
- 24. That all appointments made in violation of the conflict of interest statutes are null and void. A.R.S. § 38-503.
- 25. That declaratory judgment relief is both necessary and proper in order to set forth and determine the rights, obligations, and liabilities that exist among the parties because the BOS did not comply with statutes requiring public notice of Respondent Patrick G. Call's conflict of interest prior to the vote; that the BOS did not disclose that it would even be voting for the appointment of a Justice of the Peace candidate at the special meeting; that the BOS's vote to appoint Respondent Patrick G. Call was done in executive session and is invalid; that the BOS failed to open the position up to competitive application (bidding) in the face of Mr. Call's conflict of interest.
- 26. That because the BOS vote was held in an executive session, and violated the conflict of interest laws, the appointment of Patrick G. Call to Justice of the Peace is null and void, and must be declared null and void.

# COUNT II (Writ of Mandamus)

- 27. The Petitioner hereby incorporates in its entirety all foregoing allegations and contents as if the same where fully set forth herein.
- 28. That the Respondents had a legal duty to provide notice to the public of its intention to vote on appointing one of its members, Respondent, Patrick G. Call, as the Justice of the Peace for Precinct Five.
- 29. That the Respondents had a legal duty to disclose to the public that Respondent, Patrick G. Call, had a conflict of interest in applying for the Justice of the Peace position prior to taking a vote to appoint him as Justice of the Peace.

- 30. That the Respondents had a legal duty to open the position up for public bidding by other qualified candidates.
- 31. That the Respondents had a legal duty to vote, after proper notice to the public, in a public meeting.
  - 32. That the Respondents had a legal duty to follow the laws of this State.
- 33. That the Respondents have breached their duties and have abused their discretion as stated herein.
- 34. That the Petitioner has no plain or adequate remedy at law, other than to have the Court issue a Writ of Mandamus requiring Respondents to comply with the open meeting statutes and properly notify the public of its intent to appoint one of its own members to fill the vacancy of Justice of the Peace and to open the position to the public for application (bidding) by other qualified candidates.
- 35. That the Court should also issue a Writ of Mandamus ordering the BOS to immediately produce the minutes of the executive session for in camera review by the Court for consideration of release to the public as being relevant to this action pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.07(c).

# **COUNT III** (Injunctive Relief)

- 36. The Petitioner hereby incorporates in its entirety all foregoing allegations and contents as if the same where fully set forth herein.
- 37. That the Respondents' actions as specifically stated herein have been in violation of the law and in violation of the Petitioner's rights, and all those of Cochise County.
- 38. That the Respondents' actions aversely affect and/or threaten the Petitioner's right, as well as the rights of all those in Justice Court Five, to have his (their) legal action(s) decided by a competent and properly appointed or elected Justice of the Peace.
- 39. The Respondents' actions in appointing one of their own, Respondent Patrick G. Call, is invalid, as specifically stated herein.

- 40. That the Petitioner has no adequate remedy at law and will suffer irreparable harm if injunctive relief is not granted as his legal rights will be determined by an incompetent and improperly appointed Justice of the Peace.
- 41. That this Court should issue an injunction prohibiting the BOS from conducting any further executive sessions/meetings on this issue and order the BOS to hold all meetings in public in compliance with the open meetings statutes.
- 42. That this Court should issue an injunction requiring the BOS properly notify the public of its intent to appoint one of its own members to fill the vacancy of Justice of the Peace and to open the position to the public for application (bidding) by other qualified candidates.

### **COUNT IV**

## (Attorney Fees, Costs and Penalties against Individual Board Members)

- 43. The Petitioner hereby incorporates in its entirety all foregoing allegations and contents as if the same where fully set forth herein.
- 44. That the Petitioner is entitled to an award of attorney fees pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 38-431.07 and 12-2030.
- 45. That the Petitioner is entitled to an award of costs pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 12-341 and 12-1840.
- 46. That civil monetary penalty should be accessed against each Board Member individually, which may be withheld from their pay.

WHEREFORE, the Petitioners having stated their requests for relief against the Respondents herein pray as follows:

- 1. That this Court issue an Order declaring Respondent Patrick G. Call's appointment as Justice of the Peace Precinct Five null and void;
- 2. That this Court issue a Writ of Mandamus ordering the Respondents to comply with the open meeting statutes and properly notify the public of its intent to appoint one of its own members to fill the vacancy of Justice of the Peace and to open the position to the public for application (bidding) by other qualified candidates;

- 3. That this Court issue a Writ of Mandamus ordering the Respondents to convene the proper Justice of the Peace selection committee, and properly consider other qualified applicants for Justice of the Peace:
- 4. That this Court issue a Writ of Mandamus ordering the BOS to immediately produce the minutes of the executive session for in camera review by the Court for consideration of release to the public as being relevant to this action pursuant to Λ.R.S. § 38-431.07(c).
- 5. That this Court issue an injunction enjoining the Respondents from holding any further closed meetings to vote on filling the vacancy of Justice of the Peace.

  Precinct Five, in light of the conflict of interest:
- 6. That this Court issue an injunction prohibiting the BOS from conducting any further executive sessions/meetings on this issue and order the BOS to hold all meetings in public in compliance with the open meetings statutes;
- 7. That this Court issue an injunction requiring the BOS to properly notify the public of its intent to appoint one of its own members to fill the vacancy of Justice of the Peace and to open the position to the public for application (bidding) by other qualified candidates:
- 8. That the Court order monetary penalties be assessed against the Respondents individually:
- 9. That Petitioner be awarded any and all attorney fees and costs incurred in filing this action; and,
- 6. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper in the premises.

DATED this Ref day February, 2019.

# THE RUSSELL'S LAW FIRM, PLC

By: / L. Christopher Russell
D. Christopher Russell
Attorney for Petitioners

### VERIFICATION

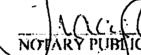
STATE OF ARIZONA )ss. COUNTY OF COCHISE

David Welch, being first duly sworn, upon his oath deposes and states as follows: That he is a Petitioner in the above-captioned action: that he has read the foregoing Special Action and Petition for Writ of Mandamus, Petition For Injunctive and Declaratory Relief, knows the contents thereof, and that the matters and things alleged therein are true in substance and in fact, except for those matters alleged upon information and belief, and as to those allegations. he believes them to be true.

Petitioner. Individually and on behalf of all citizens of Cochise County

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 4 day of 15





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V.



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# THE RUSSELL'S LAW FIRM, PLC 202 E. WILCOX DR. SIERRA VISTA, AZ 85635 Tel: (520)458-7246 Fax: (855)778-5559 Pur D. Christopher Pussell, Require

By: D. Christopher Russell, Esquire State Bar No. 22674 courtdocs@russellslawfirm.com Attorney for Petitioner

# IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF COCHISE

DAVID WELCH, individually and on behalf of ALL CITIZENS OF COCHISE COUNTY, PRECINCT FIVE,

Petitioner,

COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, PATRICK G. CALL, ANN ENGLISH, AND PEGGY JUDD,

Respondents.

Case No.: **CY201900060** 

CERTIFICATE OF COMPULSORY ARBITRATION

Assigned Hon.:



The undersigned certifies that the largest award sought by Plaintiff, including punitive damages, but excluding interest, attorney's fees, and costs DOES NOT exceed the limit set by Local Rule for compulsory arbitration. This case IS subject to arbitration pursuant to Rules 72 through 77 of the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure.

DATED this 14th day of February, 2019.

THE RUSSELL'S LAW FIRM, PLC

By: /s/ D. Christopher Russell
D. Christopher Russell

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

| 1  | Plaintiffs' counsel at courtdocs@russellslawfirm.com. |
|----|---|
| 2  | DATED THIS day of February, 2019                      |
| 3  | DATED TITIS day of reordary, 2019                     |
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| 5  | Hon   |
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### PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SPECIAL/EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON Tuesday, February 12, 2019

A special meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G. Bisbee, Arizona.

Present:

Peggy Judd, Chairman; Patrick G. Call, Vice-Chairman; Ann English, Supervisor

Staff Present: Edward T. Gilligan, County Administrator

Sharon Gilman, Associate County Administrator Britt W. Hanson, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney

Elda Orduno, Civil Deputy County Attorney Amanda Baillie, Public Information Officer

Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board

Chairman Judd called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

### ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

### **ACTION**

### **Board of Supervisors**

1. Discussion regarding the process for filling the vacancy for Justice of the Peace in Justice Precinct 5.

Ms. Orduno explained that ARS 16-230 governs the process for the Board to fill the vacancy. She said that the Board will appoint someone of the same party, republican, to cover the term until the election in November of 2020

Mr. Gilligan confirmed his attendance telephonically.

Mr. Hanson added that there was no mandated legal process to fill a county officer vacancy and that the process was up to the Board's discretion of taking applications or not taking applications and making a direct appointment. He noted that due to timing of the vacancy he recommended that the Board move through the process as quickly as possible to not disrupt the operations of JP 5.

Chairman Judd said that she did not think the Board should take applications as it would lengthen the process and added that one of the precinct judges had suggested forming a committee with the interested stakeholders and receive their input.

Supervisor English said that it was important to note that a justice of the peace did not have to have a legal background and that she wanted to choose someone that could comply with the duties of the position until the election and then the voters from that precinct would decide.

Mr. Gilligan entered the meeting in person at 9:37 a.m.

Supervisor English continued and said that she was not sure that she would want to go through an application process.

Chairman Judd said that she also did not want to go through an application process, but would be very open to a committee driven process.

Supervisor English said that a committee would only be an advisory capacity and the Board might not agree with their input.

Vice-Chairman Call agreed that accepting applications would be a lengthy process and agreed that if a committee was put together and the Board did not agree with their suggestion, it would be disappointing to those involved.

Chairman Judd said that she had not considered the comments regarding a committee process, but now agreed that a committee might not be the best idea.

Mr. Gilligan said that he spoke to Judge Tim Dickerson and he also shared the perspective that a committee could be formed to help sort through applications because Judge Dickerson agreed that this type of vacancy would draw a significant volume of interested parties. Judge Dickerson had made arrangements for a Pro Tem to cover his calendar from March 1, 2019 to a date uncertain, when the person the Board selects takes office. Judge Dickerson said that this would allow for enough time for a thorough vetting of potentially hundreds of applications.

Mr. Gilligan said that it was his recommendation that a simple direct appointment would be the most prudent action for the Board and listed several reasons:

- 1. He did not think that long; drawn-out recruitment would be appropriate with the current timeline.
- 2. Budget season was approaching and appointing instead of recruiting would assist the person in that position to be a part of that process.
- 3. There is a major concern for continuity of operations and personnel if this decision is delayed.
- 4. The person chosen should be familiar with county processes, have a proven record of public service, and the Board should be confident in their ethical bearing because a mistake would ultimately be the Board's responsibility
- 5. With the given timeline appointing rather than recruiting is practical.

The Board thanked Mr. Gilligan for his thoughts on the process and his direction on how to move forward.

Supervisor English said that she thought this would be an appropriate time to go into executive session and move onto item number two.

2. Appoint as Justice of the Peace for Justice Precinct 5.

This executive session is authorized under A.R.S. § 38-431.03, Subsection (A), paragraph)(1), the Board may go into executive session for the discussion or consideration of appointment of a public officer, appointee or employee of the public body.

Supervisor English said that the process was simple and she would like to go into executive session to discuss the matter in more detail.

Ms. Gilman and Ms. Baillie exited the room.

Mr. Hanson said that he recommended the Board go into executive session if more details needed to be discussed.

Supervisor English moved to go into executive session. Vice-Chairman Call seconded the motion, it carried unanimously, and the Board went into executive session at 9:47 a.m.

The Board came out of executive session at 10:14 a.m.

Supervisor English moved to table this item until 11:30 a.m. on the same day. Vice-Chairman Call seconded the motion.

Chairman Judd called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

Chairman Judd reconvened the meeting at 12:31 p.m. in open session past the original time of 11:30 a.m. due to the Board's attendance to a regular meeting and work session that were already scheduled.

Supervisor English moved to appoint Pat Call as Justice of the Peace in Precinct 5. Chairman Judd seconded the motion.

Supervisor English asked if she should note an effective date as part of the motion.

Mr. Hanson said that Judge Dickerson would vacate that office on March 1, 2019; that would be the effective date of Vice-Chairman Call's appointment.

Supervisor English stated that over the years while serving along side Vice-Chairman Call he had always shared interest for that position and that when she was aware that there could be a vacancy there she thought that it would be a good fit.

Chairman Judd said that she was not aware of an interest from Vice-Chairman Call, but that she thought it was a good choice, especially with the knowledge that the voters of that area had confidence in Vice-Chairman Call's character.

Mr. Hanson suggested that the Board relay a message on why they decided to appoint and not recruit.

Supervisor English said that due to timing and the required training for justice of the peace, along with the upcoming budget, she did not think an application process would be the most beneficial decision. She noted that the justice of the peace decision did not require a law degree or law experience since it was a citizen's court and added that the voters would have the opportunity to make their voices heard at the next general election in 2020.

Chairman Judd said she agreed with Supervisor English and was comfortable foregoing the application process.

| Chairman Judd adjourned the meeting at 12:36 p.m. |
|---|
| APPROVED:   |
|   |
| Peggy Judd, Chairman                              |
| ATTEST:   |
| Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board               |

Chairman Judd called for the vote and it was approved 2-0-1 (Call abstained).

SUPERIOR COURT, STATE OF ARIZONA, In and for the County of Cochise DAVID WELCH, INDIVIDUALLY Case No. CV201900060 File Stamp Only AND ON BEHALF OF ALL CITIZENS OF COCHISE COUNTY, PRECINCT ORDER REFERRING TO 2019 FEB 19 PM 12: 1: **COURT ADMINISTRATION** FIVE. FOR REASSIGNMENT Petitioner. A court VS. COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, PATRICK G. CALL, ANN ENGLISH, AND PEGGY JUDD,

HONORABLE TERRY BANNON DIVISION SIX

Respondent.

By: Stephanie A. Gregory (02/19/2019)

Judicial Administrative Assistant

Good cause appearing and conflict of interest, the Court RECUSES itself from further involvement in this matter. Accordingly, IT IS THE ORDER of the Court referring this case to the Court Administrator for reassignment to another division.

DATED this 19th day of February 2019.

TERRY BANNON

Superior Court Judge Pro Tempore

mailed/distributed: 2/19/19 BA

<sup>√</sup> D. Christopher Russell, Esq., 202 East Wilcox Drive, Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635

Britt Hanson, Deputy County Attorney, Civil Division

<sup>✓</sup> Court Administration, Shawneen Serrano

2019 FEB 19 AM 9:31

# COCHISE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURTLERK OF

### OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

| DAVID WELCH, individually and on behalf of ALL CITIZENS OF COCHISE COUNTY, PRECINCT FIVE, | NOTICE RE:   | CASE NO:    |
|---|--------------|-------------|
| Petitioner,   | REASSIGNMENT | CV201900060 |
|   | OF JUDGE     |             |
| Vs.   |              |             |
| COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF   |              |             |
| SUPERVISOROS, PATRICK G. CALL,  |              |             |
| ANN ENGLISH, AND PEGGY JUDD,  |              |             |
| Respondents.  |              |             |

Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2018-015, In Re: Regular and Special Assignments of Judges, AND a referral to the Court Administrator's office for reassignment,

This case is reassigned to Honorable THOMAS FINK, Presiding Judge, Santa Cruz County, (this will remain a Division Seven Cochise County case), for all further proceedings, AND may the record reflect that original pleadings are to be filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court in Cochise County and copies of these pleadings are to be mailed by the parties to the Honorable Thomas Fink at the address listed.

| DAI   | ED:. red     | ruary 19, 2019     | (SS)       |          |              |          |         |
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| xc:   | D. Christopl | ner Russell, Esq., | , 202 E. ' | Wilcox D | rive, Sierra | Vista, A | Z 85635 |
|       | Honorable 7  | homas Fink, Sar    | nta Cruz   | County S | uperior Co   | urt,     |         |

2160 North Congress Drive, Nogales, AZ 85621

Court Admin/Case Mgmt. Div.